

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 01:222
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 09/980435
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB 00/01989	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 01 June 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 01 June 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION LOUVRE BLIND WASHING AID				
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US SWEENEY, Edward				
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). 11. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). <p>Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 20. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 21. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 22. <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail 23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <p>Copy of International Publication Number WO 00/72738 A1, including 4 sheets drawings and PCT/ISA/210 8 pages specification, claims & abstract w/4 sheets drawings Preliminary Amendment. Executed Declaration (not enclosed). Transmittal Sheets in duplicate w/fees charged to Dep. Acct. 07-2100.</p>				

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF UNKNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.137(a)) 097980435	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB 00/01989	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 01:222												
24. The following fees are submitted:		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY												
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1040.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 														
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$890.00												
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30		\$130.00												
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">CLAIMS</th> <th style="width: 25%;">NUMBER FILED</th> <th style="width: 25%;">NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th style="width: 25%;">RATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total claims</td> <td>15 - 20 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x \$18.00 \$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent claims</td> <td>- 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x \$84.00 \$0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	Total claims	15 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00 \$0.00	Independent claims	- 3 =	0	x \$84.00 \$0.00	\$0.00
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE											
Total claims	15 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00 \$0.00											
Independent claims	- 3 =	0	x \$84.00 \$0.00											
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/> \$0.00												
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =		\$1,020.00												
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27). The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.		\$510.00												
SUBTOTAL =		\$510.00												
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 +		\$0.00												
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =		\$510.00												
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/> \$0.00												
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =		\$510.00												
		Amount to be: refunded \$ charged \$ 												
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 07-2100 in the amount of \$510.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-2100 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.														
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.														
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Ronald E. Greigg GREIGG & GREIGG, P.L.L.C. 1423 Powhatan Street, Unit One Alexandria, VA 22314 </div>														
Customer No. 02119														
Telephone: (703) 838-5500 Facsimile: (703) 838-5554														
 SIGNATURE Ronald E. Greigg NAME 31,517 REGISTRATION NUMBER 03 December 2001 DATE														

IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Edward SWEENEY

Based on PCT/GB 00/01989

For: Louvre Blind Washing Aid

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, between paragraph [0001] and paragraph [0002], insert:

[0001.4] **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0001.6] **Field of the Invention**

after paragraph [0002], insert the following new paragraph:

[0002.5] **Brief Description of the Prior Art**

after paragraph [0004], insert the following new paragraph:

[0004.5] **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Page 2, after paragraph [0009], insert the following new paragraph:

[0009.5] **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Page 3, after paragraph [0017], insert the following new paragraph:

[0017.5] **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Referring to the drawings, a washing aid for use in cleaning flexible slats of a louvre blind comprises a slat holder 10 whose wall surround 12 is of openwork to allow passage of fluid therethrough and having a perforated/slotted bottom plate 8 and a perforated/slotted top plate 9. The holder 10 internally defines a chamber of substantially drum shape whose depth and diameter are substantially the same as a roll of slats (not shown) to be accommodated therein. There are at least two standard widths for slats. The chamber is dimensioned to accommodate the larger width. An annular perforated/slotted spacer (not shown), of diameter just short of the diameter of the chamber, is provided to be used with the smaller width slats, the spacer reducing the axial length of the chamber. The holder 10 is in two parts 10A, 10B openable to locate a roll therein and securable together to hold the roll during washing by use of three fasteners 13, equi-spaced around the periphery as shown. As shown, each part 10A, 10B is similarly provided with three recesses 11 in each of which, a bar 15 is provided, the axis of which lies in a plane parallel to the top and bottom of the chamber. Each fastener 13 is elongated and has one end shaped as a C-clip to encompass a bar 15 of one part and near to the other end shaped as a ledge. When a fastener 13 is fitted, the ledge underlies the bar 15 of the other part as shown. The portion of the fastener 13 beyond the ledge serves as a finder grip to open fastener from its clipped position. To close the fastener 13, it is simply pushed against the bar 15 of the other part and the body of the fastener 13 flexes to ride over the bar 15 and catch the bar in its closed position. Each fastener 13 is normally held on the bar 15 of the part and pivots thereabout but can be removed by pulling it apart from the bar 15.

Page 6, line 1, delete “CLAIMS” and insert --I Claim--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-11 and add new claims 12-26.

12. A washing aid for use in cleaning the flexible slats of a louvre blind, the aid comprising a slat holder whose all surround is of openwork to allow passage of fluid therethrough, the holder internally defining a chamber of substantially drum shape whose axial length and diameter are substantially the same as a roll of slats to be accommodated therein, the holder being in two parts openable to locate a roll therein and securable together to hold the roll during washing.
13. An aid as claimed in claim 12, wherein the holder has an axial core in said chamber.
14. An aid as defined in claim 13, wherein a portion of said axial core is in each part.
15. An aid as claimed in claim 13, wherein the core is hollow and is perforated or slotted.
16. An aid as claimed in claim 12, further comprising two or more external fasteners securing the parts together, said fasteners engaging both parts.
17. An aid as claimed in claim 12, wherein the outside of the holder is substantially in the shape of a sphere to assist in the tumbling movements of the aid when located in a washing machine.

18. An aid as claimed in claim 17, wherein the two parts are of similar shape, the spherical structural being formed by a plurality of quadrant shaped web plates between an extended core and a surface of the chamber.

19. An aid as claimed in claim 13, wherein a container for dispensing a cleaning medium of liquid or tablet form is provided to fit inside the axial cores, the container having an annular projectile flange to be engaged by the inner end faces of the cores when assembled.

20. An aid as claimed in claim 19, wherein the container has a series of apertures therein to allow flow of water thereinto and medium thereabout.

21. An aid as claimed in claim 12, wherein the top of one part of the core has a series of protuberances to be a push fit into a corresponding series of holes in the other part.

22. An aid as claimed in claim 13, wherein the top of one part of the core has a series of protuberances to be a push fit into a corresponding series of holes in the other part.

23. An aid as claimed in claim 14, wherein the top of one part of the core has a series of protuberances to be a push fit into a corresponding series of holes in the other part.

24. An aid as claimed in claim 12, wherein the outer end of one part of the core is formed as a socket and the outer end as a spigot.

25. An aid as claimed in claim 13, wherein the outer end of one part of the core is formed as a socket and the outer end as a spigot.

26. An aid as claimed in claim 14, wherein the outer end of one part of the core is formed as a socket and the outer end as a spigot.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the attached Abstract of the Disclosure for the abstract as originally as filed.

REMARKS

The above amendments are being made to place the application in better condition for examination.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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JPRFS

LOUVRE BLIND WASHING AID

This invention relates to a vertical louvre blind washing aid.

5 A problem exists in the washing of flexible slats or vanes of vertical louvre blinds, the slats being made from material having similar sleeves at the top and bottom ends into which a hanger and a ballaster are respectively fitted for each slat.

Through use, such slats become dirty, or discoloured by, for example smoking, and periodically require to be cleaned. While this operation can be 10 performed by commercial laundry establishments, in most domestic locations they are cleaned by the householder. Most windows, to which a louvre blind is fitted on a rail across the top of the window, has one or two arrangements of slats. In each arrangement, the slats are connected together by their ballasters being linked by flexible connectors with the hangers being suspended on hooks provided on 15 corresponding slides on the rail and having a common cord control, whereby they can be opened, shut or angled. In the one arrangement version, the slats are opened to one side of the window, and in the two arrangement version, with normally the same number of slats in each arrangement, the slats are opened, one arrangement to each side of the window. Rather than being washed individually, the slats of each 20 arrangement are washed together. Heretofore, one of the means employed by the householder, having removed an arrangement from the rail, is to roll the arrangement of slats (after the hangers, ballasters and connectors have been removed) into a roll and, as a means of preventing axial movement of one slat relative to its neighbours, places one or more elastic bands or ties therearound before placing the roll into the 25 washing machine. While this prevents relative axial movement of the slats, it inhibits the cleaning of the slats in the washing process and is therefore a disadvantage.

An object of the present invention is to obviate or mitigate this disadvantage.

Accordingly, the present invention is a washing aid for use in cleaning the flexible slats of a louvre blind, the aid comprising a slat holder whose wall surround is

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of openwork to allow passage of fluid therethrough, the holder internally defining a chamber of substantially drum shape whose axial length and diameter are substantially the same as a roll of slats to be accommodated therein, the holder being in two parts openable to locate a roll therein and securable together to hold the roll during washing.

5 during washing.

Preferably, the holder has an axial core in each part. The core is desirably hollow and may be perforated or slotted. The securing of the parts together may be by two or more external fasteners engaging both parts. Alternatively, the top of one part of the core may have a series of protuberances to be a push fit into a corresponding series of holes in the other part. Further alternatively, the outer end of one part of the core may be formed as a socket and the other outer end as a spigot.

Preferably also, the outside of the holder is formed as a sphere or substantially so to assist in the tumbling movements of the aid when located in a washing machine. The two parts may be similar in shape, the spherical structure being formed by a plurality of quadrant shaped web plates between an extended core and a surface of the chamber.

Preferably further, a container for dispensing a cleaning medium in liquid or tablet form is provided to fit inside the axial cores, the container having an annular projecting flange to be engaged by the end faces of the cores when assembled. The container preferably has a series of slots or apertures therein to allow flow of water thereinto and medium thereout.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of two parts of a washing aid according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of the washing aid:

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view on line III - III of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a top part of the aid;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view on the line V – V of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view on line VI - VI of Fig. 4; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of one part of the aid showing a container for

5 cleaning medium about to be located.

Referring to the drawings, a washing aid for use in cleaning flexible slats of a louvre blind comprises a slat holder 10 whose wall surround 12 is of openwork to allow passage of fluid therethrough and having a perforated/slotted bottom plate 8 and a perforated/slotted top plate 9. The holder 10 internally defines a chamber of substantially drum shape whose depth and diameter are substantially the same as a roll of slats (not shown) to be accommodated therein. There are at least two standard widths for slats. The chamber is dimensioned to accommodate the larger width. An annular perforated/slotted spacer (not shown), of diameter just short of the diameter of the chamber, is provided to be used with the smaller width slats, the spacer reducing the axial length of the chamber. The holder 10 is in two parts 10A, 10B openable to locate a roll therein and securable together to hold the roll during washing by use of three fasteners 13, equi-spaced around the periphery as shown. As shown, each part 10A, 10B is similarly provided with three recesses 11 in each of which, a bar 15 is provided, the axis of which lies in a plane parallel to the top and bottom of the chamber. Each fastener 13 is elongate and has at one end a C-clip 15A to encompass a bar 15 of one part and near to the other end has a ledge 15B. When a fastener 13 is fitted, the ledge underlies the bar 15 of the other part as shown. The portion of the fastener 13 beyond the ledge 15B serves as a finger grip to open the fastener from its clipped position. To close the fastener 13, it is simply pushed against the bar 15 of the other part and the body of the fastener 13 flexes to ride over the bar 15 and catch the bar in its closed position. Each fastener 13 is

normally held on the bar 15 of the one part and pivots thereabout but can be removed by pulling it apart from the bar 15.

The holder 10 has an axial core 14. The core 14 is hollow and perforated/slotted as shown. The outside of the holder 10 is formed as a sphere 20 or 5 substantially so to assist in the tumbling movement of the aid when located in the washing machine. The two parts 10A, 10B are similar in shape, the spherical structure being formed by a plurality of quadrant shaped web plates 22 between an extended core 14A and the top and bottom surfaces of the chamber.

A container 24 for dispensing a cleaning medium in liquid or tablet form is 10 provided to fit inside the axial cores 14, the container 24 having an annular projecting flange 26 to be engaged by the inner end faces of the cores 14 when assembled. The container 24 has a series of slots or apertures 28 therein to allow flow of water thereinto and cleaning medium thereout..

In a first modification (not shown), the securing of the parts 10A, 10B together 15 is by the top of one part of the core 14 having a series of protuberances to be a push fit into a corresponding series of holes in the other part 10B. Alternatively, the core 14 is in two parts 14A, 14B provided on corresponding parts 10A, 10B, part 14B being of slightly greater depth than part 10B. The outer end of part 14A is formed as a socket and the outer end of part 14B as a spigot to fit inside and be secured in the 20 socket end by push-fitment.

In a second modification (not shown), the core 14 is provided in one part of the holder and a hole is provided in the other part. The core 14 extends slightly more than the axial depth of the holder and at or adjacent to its outer end has one continuous protuberance to be a push fit through the hole.

25 In use, an arrangement of slats is formed into a roll and fitted into part 10A of the holder 10 around the core 14 and the part 10B is secured thereto. The holder is

then placed in a washing machine and with the machine energised, tumbles around inside.

The slats in the holder 10 are prevented from moving axially relative to each other but can move radially to each other thereby to allow the cleaning medium in the 5 machine to reach all parts of the slats for cleaning the slats.

Variations and other modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the invention described above and as claimed hereinafter.

CLAIMS

1. A washing aid for use in cleaning the flexible slats of a louvre blind, the aid comprising a slat holder whose wall surround is of openwork to allow passage of fluid therethrough, the holder internally defining a chamber of substantially drum shape whose axial length and diameter are substantially the same as a roll of slats to be accommodated therein, the holder being in two parts openable to locate a roll therein and securable together to hold the roll during washing.
2. An aid as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the holder has an axial core in each part.
3. An aid as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the core is hollow and is perforated or slotted.
4. An aid as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the securing of the parts together is by two or more external fasteners engaging both parts.
5. An aid as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the outside of the holder is formed as a sphere or substantially so to assist in the tumbling movements of the aid when located in a washing machine.
6. An aid as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the two parts are of similar shape, the spherical structural being formed by a plurality of quadrant shaped web plates between an extended core and a surface of the chamber.

7. An aid as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 6, wherein a container for dispensing a cleaning medium of liquid or tablet form is provided to fit inside the axial cores, the container having an annular projective flange to be engaged by the inner end faces of the cores when assembled.

8. An aid as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the container has a series of apertures therein to allow flow of water thereinto and medium thereabout.

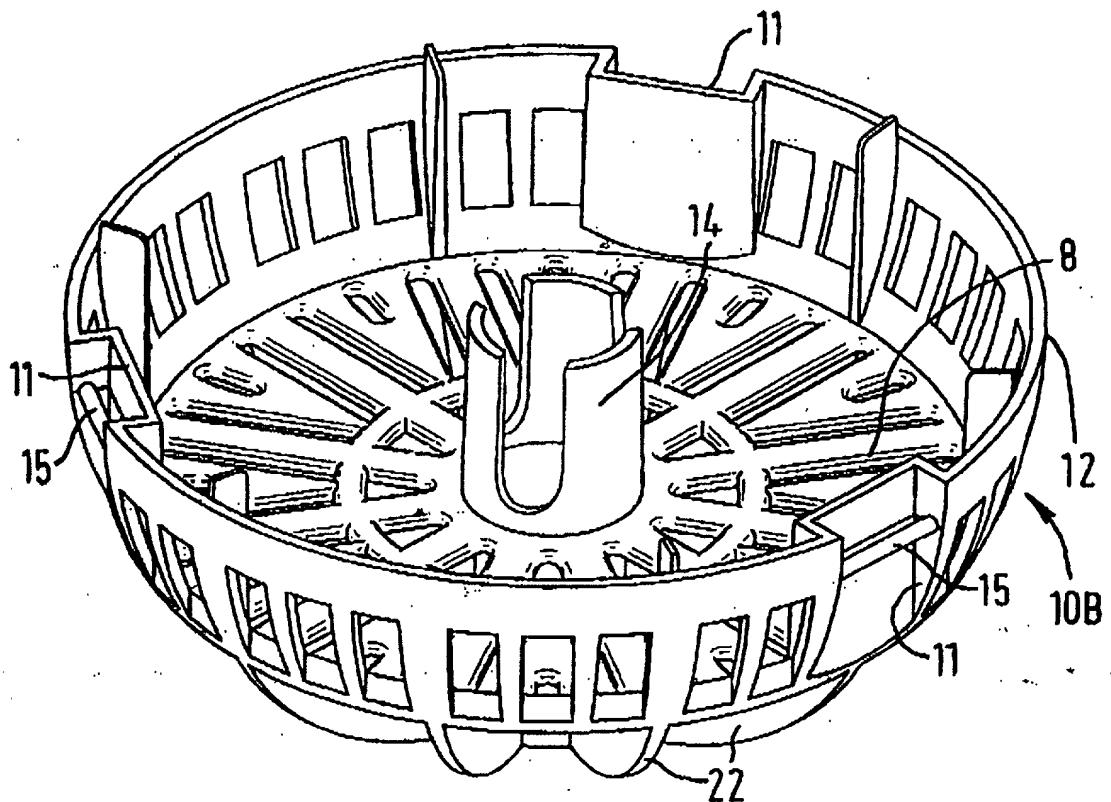
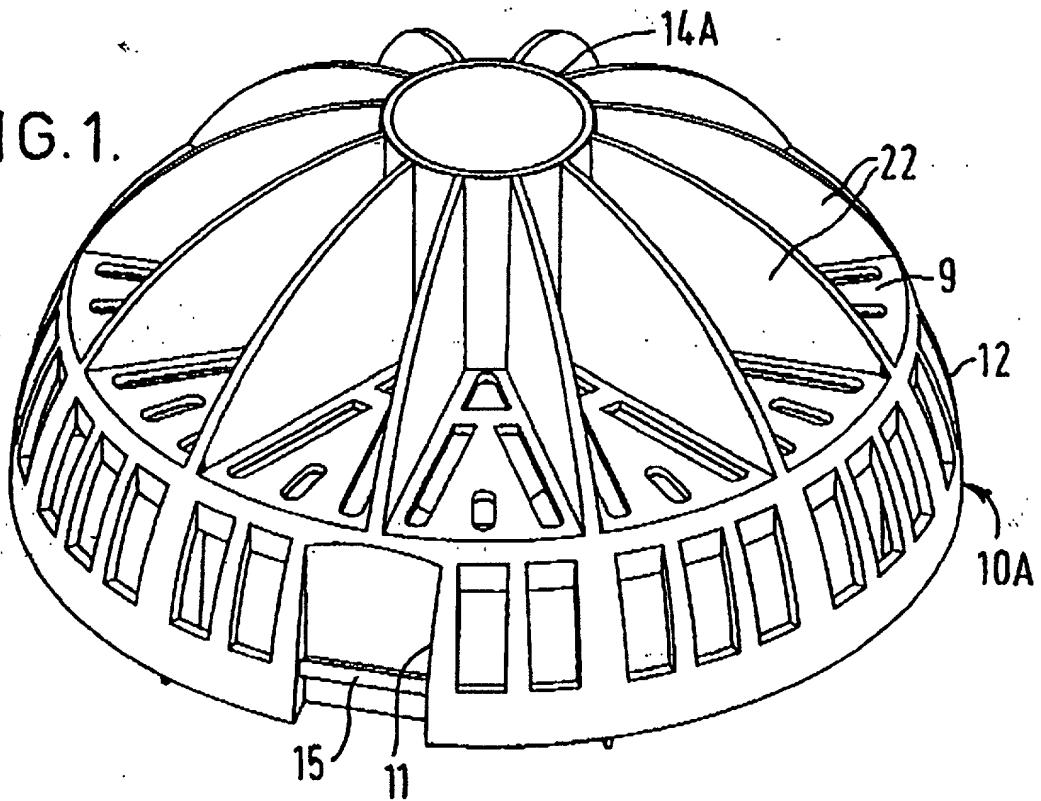
10 9. An aid as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the top of one part of the core has a series of protuberances to be a push fit into a corresponding series of holes in the other part.

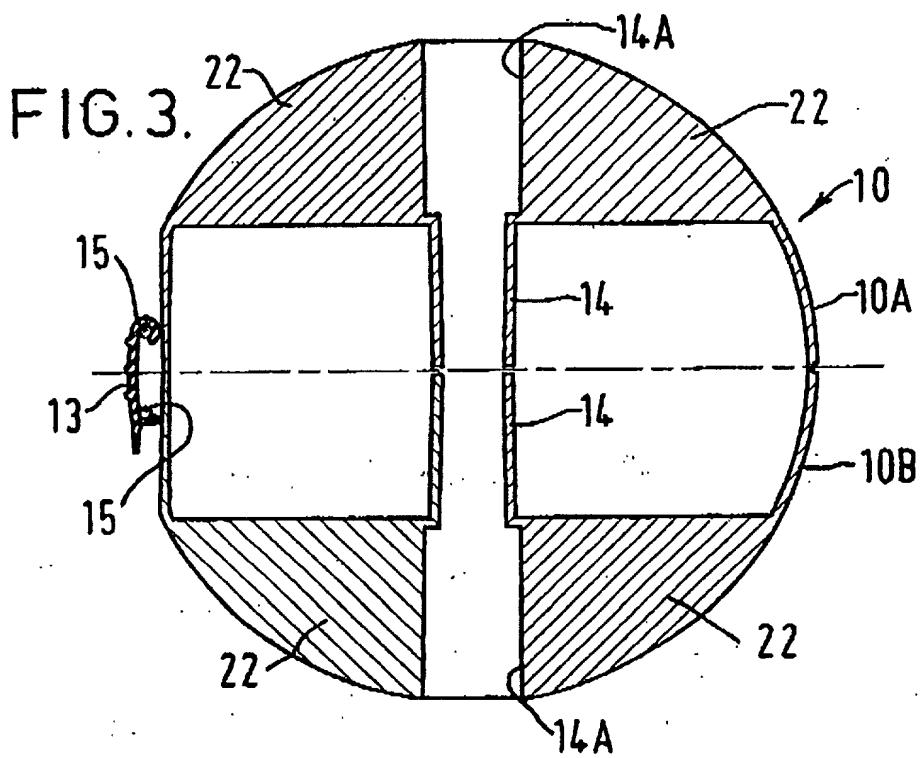
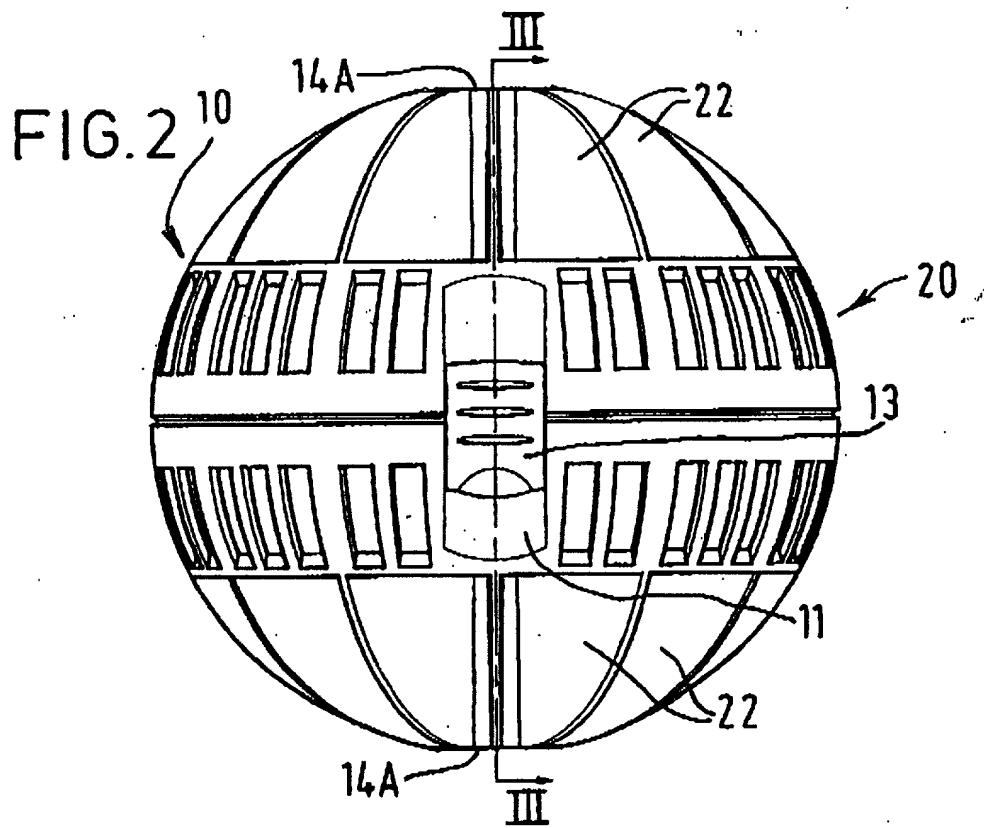
10. An aid as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the outer end of one part of the core is formed as a socket and the other outer end as a spigot.

15 11. A washing aid substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

1/4

FIG.1.





3/4

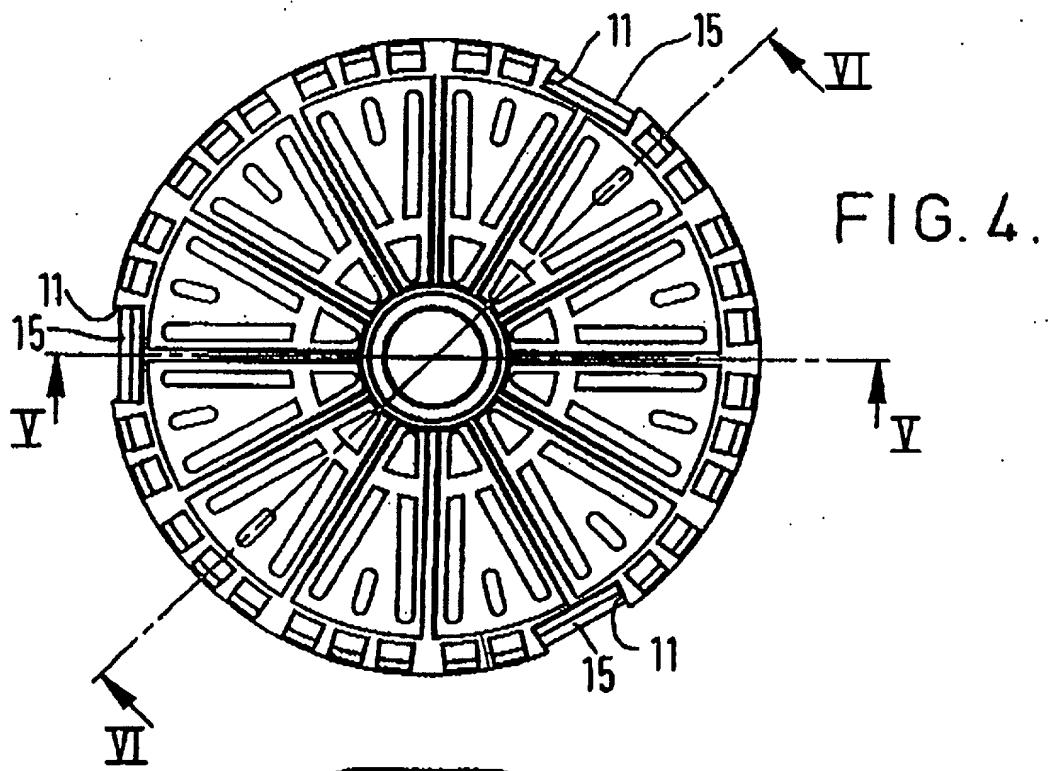


FIG. 4.

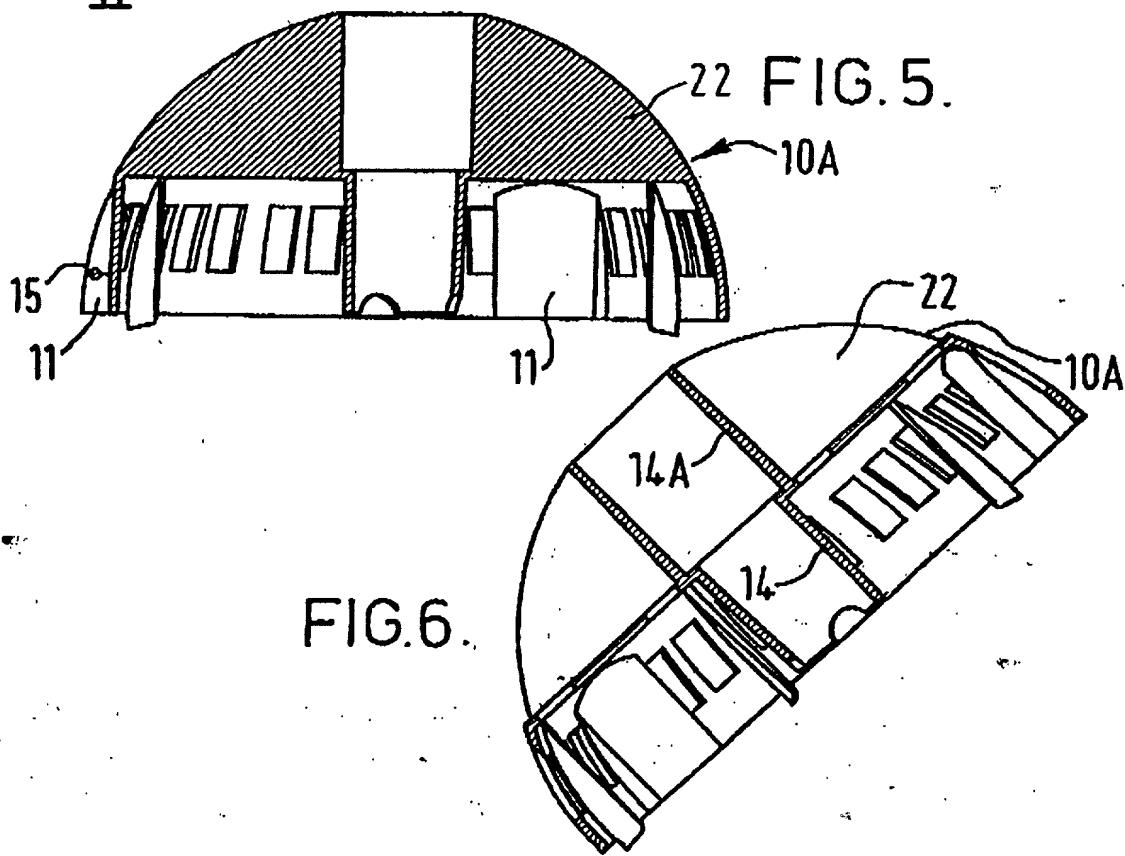
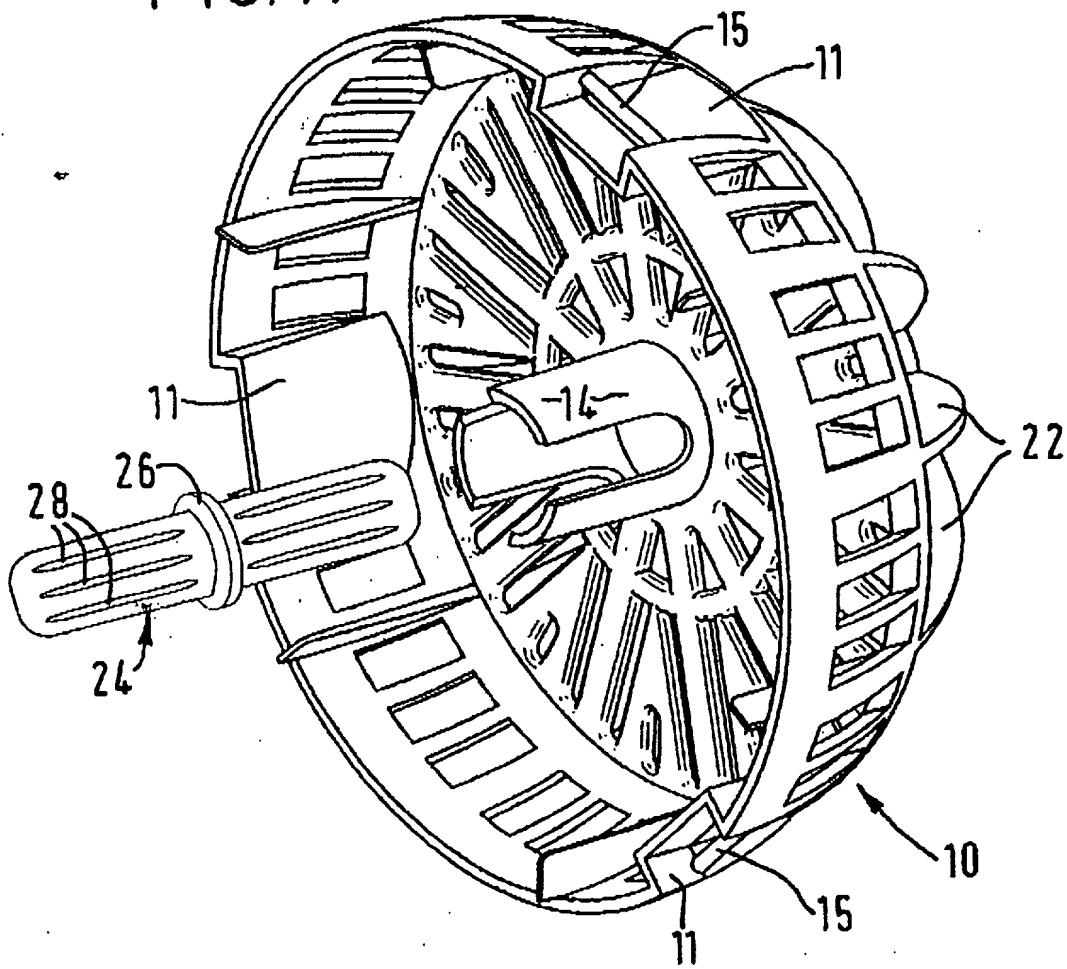


FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.



Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

LOUVRE BLIND WASHING AID

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on 1st June 2000 as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number PCT/GB00/01989
and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)	Priority	Claimed
9912648.4 (Number)	United Kingdom (Country)	01.06.1999 (Day/Month/Year Filed)
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Ronald E. Greigg - Registration No. 31,517

Send Correspondence to: Ronald E. Greigg
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Full name of sole or first inventor <i>EDWARD SWEENEY</i>	Date <i>30/11/81</i>
Sole or first Inventor's signature <i>Edward Sweeney</i>	
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Full name of second inventor, if any	
Second Inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27 (b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

Docket No. #4

Serial No. 09/980,435	Filing Date	Patent No.	Issue Date
Applicant/ Patentee: EDWARD SWEENEY	10 Recd PTO/DO 25 JAN 2002		
Invention: LOUVRE BLIND WASHING AID			

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled above and described in:

- the specification to be filed herewith.
- the application identified above.
- the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- No such person, concern or organization exists.
- Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME	_____		
ADDRESS	_____		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Concern	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization
FULL NAME	_____		
ADDRESS	_____		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Concern	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization
FULL NAME	_____		
ADDRESS	_____		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Concern	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization
FULL NAME	_____		
ADDRESS	_____		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Concern	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR EDWARD SWEENEY

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR Edward Sweeney

DATE: 30/11/01

NAME OF INVENTOR _____

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR _____

DATE: _____

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